



Stage 1 Smallpox Vaccination Plan

Fact Sheet

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) asked all states to submit plans for vaccinating public health and hospital workers who would likely be among the first to come in contact with a potential smallpox patient. This is called Stage 1 of the National Smallpox Vaccination Program. Washington state sent its plan in on Tuesday, December 10.
- Washington's Stage 1 plan strikes a balance between preparedness and safety. We are not aware of any imminent threat of a smallpox attack, but we do believe in a strong emergency response program.
- The Department of Health, local public health agencies, and hospitals have worked closely together to develop this Stage 1 plan. All will play key roles should the plan be implemented.
- The plan details how our state would create:
 - **Hospital smallpox health care teams** – The doctors, nurses, specialists, technicians, security personnel, housekeeping, and other staff who would help identify and care for the first smallpox patients in an outbreak.
 - **Public health smallpox response teams** – The state, regional, and local public health workers who would investigate reported cases of smallpox, provide laboratory analysis, and vaccinate those affected.
- This Stage 1 plan will help our state be prepared for a smallpox attack. Vaccinating in advance those people who need to be prepared will strengthen our public health and health care systems' ability to respond quickly to protect the public in time of emergency. It will allow key personnel to perform their critical functions immediately and safely if a smallpox case is identified.
- The plan calls for vaccination of about 7,000 people in Washington state. About 5,900 who work at hospitals and would be a part of smallpox health care teams, and about 1,100 public health workers would make up public health smallpox response teams.
- As with all of our preparedness efforts, our Stage 1 plan takes a regional approach. As it stands now, the plan calls for vaccination clinics in each Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response region (nine-total), with the possibility of some mobile clinics as well, based on feasibility and need (perhaps as many as four).

- Participation would be voluntary. Volunteers will be:
 - Screened to eliminate those most susceptible to vaccination side effects;
 - Provided with information that will allow them to make an informed decision about volunteering for vaccination;
 - Monitored for adverse reactions and to make sure the vaccination takes.
- Trained public health nurses or physicians would give vaccinations by inoculation, a method more complicated than that used with other vaccines, such as the flu vaccine. The CDC will provide training to public health professionals who would administer the smallpox vaccine and monitor those who have been vaccinated.
- The Stage 1 vaccination plan supplements our state's broader response plan. It provides additional detail about how we would prepare key personnel to respond to a possible smallpox attack.
- The Stage 1 plan does not call for vaccination of the general public:
 - The vaccine can cause serious side effects to the person who is vaccinated and possibly to people who come in close contact with those vaccinated.
 - In the absence of a smallpox case, the risks of adverse reactions to vaccination are too great for the general public.
- The Stage 1 Smallpox Vaccination Plan is the first edition. It must be reviewed and approved by the CDC. The state Department of Health, local health jurisdictions, and hospitals will continue to work together to update and revise this plan.